

# Rakugo and Kobanashi Demonstration · Talk · Performance Event

Online Event  
(Zoom)



Free!

Advance  
Booking  
Required

A rakugo event is happening! This event includes performances by two rakugo masters: Medal of Honour with Purple Ribbon receiver Yanagiya Sankyō, and Ryūtei Saryū, Yanagiya Sankyō's apprentice and a master. There will be a lecture on rakugo traveling across cultures, an introduction to Japanese language education through kobanashi, and a kobanashi presentation by Japanese language learners. We hope you will enjoy rakugo and kobanashi during these two precious days!

Deadline: 18th September (Sat)

Booking: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rakugo2021/>

## 25th September (Sat)

15:00 ~ 17:40 (BST) (planned)

**Rakugo Explanation** (English)  
Professor Kazumi Hatasa (Purdue University)

**Lecture**  
"Can rakugo be funny for any audience? (Tentative)"  
(English)  
Professor Matilde Mastrangelo  
(Sapienza University of Rome)

**Demonstration Commentary "God of Death"**  
(English)  
Professor Kazumi Hatasa (Purdue University)

**Rakugo "God of Death"**  
(Japanese with English subtitles)  
Yanagiya Sankyō

## 26th September (Sun)

**Part One** 10:30 ~ 11:30 (BST) (planned)  
Dialogue  
"The Utilisation of Kobanashi in Japanese  
Language Education and its Practice" (Japanese)  
Professor Kazumi Hatasa (Purdue University),  
Marco Di Francesco  
(DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford)

**Part Two** 11:40 ~ 13:05 (BST) (planned)  
Kobanashi Performance Event  
(Japanese with English subtitles)  
Japanese Language Students

**Demonstration Commentary "Kanjou Box"**  
(English)  
Professor Kazumi Hatasa (Purdue University)

**Rakugo "Kanjou Box"** (English)  
Ryūtei Saryū

**Rakugo Question Corner**  
(Japanese with English translation)  
Yanagiya Sankyō Ryūtei Saryū



# Full Programme



**Rakugo “God of Death”**  
**Yanagiya Sankyō** Rakugo Performer  
 Yanagiya Sankyō (stage name) is a Rakugo Master from Tokyo. He has been a Rakugo performer since 1967 and achieved Shin’ Uchi Rakugo Storyteller Master status (the highest Rakugo rank) in 1981. He was a recipient of the Japan Foundation Award in 2014, for his work incorporating Rakugo in the field of Japanese language education. In 2017 he was given the Medal of Honour with Purple Ribbon by Japan. He has performed Rakugo all over the world.



**Rakugo “Kanjou Box”**  
**Ryūtei Saryū** Rakugo Performer  
 Ryūtei Saryū (stage name) is a Rakugo Master from Chiba Prefecture. He became an apprentice of Yanagiya Sankyō and began performing Rakugo in 1993. He was promoted to Shin’ Uchi Rakugo Master Storyteller status in 2006. He has performed Rakugo all over the world. From 2013 he has been working as a part-time lecturer at Tokyo Woman’s Christian University.

**Lecture**  
**“Can rakugo be funny for any audience?”**  
**(Tentative title)**  
**Matilde Mastrangelo**  
**Sapienza University of Rome**  
**Full Professor of Japanese Language and Literature**  
 Matilde Mastrangelo is full professor of Japanese Language and Literature at the Sapienza University of Rome. Since 2001, when she obtained a Fellowship from the Japan Foundation, she has studied storyteller San’yutei Encho, and especially his ghost stories, translating Botandōrō (The Peony Lantern) into Italian.

**Dialogue**  
**“The Utilisation of Kobanashi in Japanese Language Education and its Practice”**  
**Kazumi Hatasa**  
**Purdue University**  
**Professor at the School of Languages and Culture**  
 Kazumi Hatasa is a professor at the School of Languages and Cultures. He was Director of the School of Japanese at Middlebury College from 2004 to 2018. He has received the Foreign Minister’s Commendation in 2020. He has been working with professional performers to incorporate Rakugo and Kobanashi into Japanese Language education.

**Rakugo Explanation and Demonstration Commentary**  
**Kazumi Hatasa**  
**Purdue University**  
**Professor at the School of Languages and Culture**

**Marco Di Francesco**  
**University of Oxford**  
**DPhil Candidate, Area Studies (Japan)**  
 Marco di Francesco is currently studying for a DPhil at the University of Oxford in the School of Global and Area Studies, focusing on Japan. He is living in Tokyo for one year from December 2020 for fieldwork, exploring the state of contemporary Rakugo from a social anthropological perspective.

**Kobanashi Performance Event**  
**Japanese Language Students**  
 Performers: Students of Japanese from Around the World  
 With: The Organising Team of the International Kobanashi Festival(KKGH)  
 Global students are challenging themselves with kobanashi!

**What is Rakugo?**  
 The traditional art of one-man story-telling in Japan. A single figure sits in the traditional seiza style on stage and ensnares his audience using a fan (Sensu), a cloth (Tenugui) and his own voice. Although many Rakugo stories are comedic, there are many types of dramatic stories.



**What is Kobanashi?**  
 A short, witty story. They are often told just before the main rakugo performance. Both beginners and advanced learners can enjoy learning Japanese while experiencing Japanese culture through the practice and presentation of short kobanashi.

※Please turn leaflet over for information on event languages